

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SP-02 ICA-11 PA-01 /055 W
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R 101834Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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SECDEF WASHDC
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12844

E. O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: UK MILI PARM ELAB
SUBJECT: INDUSTRIAL ACTION AGAINST UK POLARIS BASE
CONTINUES

REF: LONDON 12382, 12037 AND 11898

1. THE INDUSTRIAL ACTION REPORTED IN REFTELS IS
CONTINUING AND WORK AT HMS NEPTUNE, FASLANE, HAS BEEN
BROUGHT TO A STOP BY THE REFUSAL OF 2,000 CIVIL
SERVICE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS TO YIELD TO A ROYAL NAVY
DEMAND TO WORK NORMALLY OR BE REPLACED BY NAVAL
PERSONNEL. THE MOD IS TAKING A FAIRLY TOUGH-LINE
AGAINST THE "BLACKING" OF ALL FOUR UK POLARIS
SUBMARINES. OVER 50 DAY-SHIFT WORKERS HAVE BEEN TAKEN
OFF PAY FOR REFUSING TO DO ALLOCATED TASKS.

2. THE MOD IS DETERMINED TO TAKE A STRONG LINE
AGAINST THE UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT BY INDUSTRIAL CIVIL
SERVANTS AT FASLANE, COULPORT AND ARROCHAIR TO
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CONTINUE THE BLACKING OF POLARIS SUBMARINES AND ALL
WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THEM. AS WITH HMG REVENGE
(REFTELS) THE MOD WILL EMPLOY NAVAL PERSONNEL TO WORK
ON HMS RESOLUTION TO PREPARE HER FOR SEA DUTY SHOULD
THE INDUSTRIAL ACTION CONTINUE.

3. MOD OFFICIALS REMAIN GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS

INDUSTRIAL ACTION WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY HAMPER
WORK ON THE SSBNS BUT ADMIT THAT UNTIL ACCORD WITH THE
UNIONS IS REACHED, "BLACKING" WILL SLOW DOWN WORK BUT
WITH NO SIGNIFICANT DEGRADATION OF UK SSBN OPERATIONAL
READINESS. ALL JOB ACTIONS ARE "UNOFFICIAL" AND
LOCALIZED, AND DO NOT HAVE BACKING OF OFFICIAL UNION
LEADERSHIP WHICH IS SEEKING EARLY RESOLUTION OF NEGO- #

4. ANDERSON, DUS/PMS, TOLD POL-MIL ATTACHE THAT
THIS MORNING'S MEETING BETWEEN UNION LEADERS AND
LORD PEART, LORD PRIVY SEAL (WHO WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED
BY MULLEY) HAD NARROWED DIFFERENCES DOWN TO ALMOST
"NEAR AGREEMENT." HE CONFIDENTLY PREDICTED AN AGREE-
MENT WHICH WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE WITHINFORTNIGHT."
BECAUSE MINISTERS ARE NOW CONVINCED THAT SETTLEMENT
IS "IN SIGHT," HE SAID MULLEY IS RELUCTANT TO GO TO THE
CABINET TO SECURE SPECIAL BACKING FOR WORK AUTHORITY
WHICH WOULD O AROUND" THE BLACKING ACTION--UNLESS
THE SIT-IN DRAGS ON BEYOND MID-AUGUST. IN THIS
CONTEXT, HE SAID HMG REGRETS THE DELAY IMPOSED ON THE
DEPARTURE OF USNS NEPTUNE, CURRENTLY PREVENTED BY
THE INDUSTRIAL ACTION FROM DEPARTING ON SCHEDULE
FROM DEVONPORT.

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